and syllabus based on the curriculum framework for school education, prepares textbooks at school levels but has no authority to prescribe them. It is for the School Boards including CBSE, State Boards, etc. who are free to prescribe textbooks for the schools affiliated respectively to the Boards.

Fate of Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers

358. SHRIMATIS. G INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to reinstate the Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers who had to resign or were dismissed owing to their inability to join the places of posting following the transfer guidelines issued earlier;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to set up a Committee to take a fresh look at the above; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has constituted a Committee under Joint Commissioner (Administration), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan with two Senior Principals of Kendriya Vidyaiayas for considering the appeal of those teachers who either resigned or were removed from service owing to their inability to join their places of posting after being transferred as a result of the transfer policy of 1st April, 2000. The appeal for aggrieved teachers received till 15th December, 2004 shall be considered by this Committee.

Common entrance test for Medical and Engineering

359. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the All India Medical and Engineering Colleges Association to permit them to

hold a National level Common Entrance Test for admission to various courses under the management quota for 2005; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) A representation was received from the All India Medical and Engineering Colleges Association (AIMECA) to permit them to hold a National Level Common Entrance Test for admission to various courses under the management quota for the year 2004-05. As per the Supreme Court directions in the TMA Pai *Vs* State of Karnataka and Islamic Academy of Education *Vs* State of Karnataka judgments, the seats of the management quota in private institutions were to be filled up by conducting admission test in the respective States either by the State Government or the Association of such colleges for similar courses within the States under-the supervision of a Committee constituted for the purpose. In view of this, the representation of the AIMECA was rejected.

Mid-day meal scheme in Maharashtra

360. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of hunger and malnutrition 640 children died in Akkalkuva and Dadgaon in Maharashtra between March to August, 2004;

(b) whether mid-day meal scheme is not operating in the schools of the said areas; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure that no one dies of hunger in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) As per information furnished by Government of Maharashtra, 471 children of 0—6 age group in Akkalkuva and Dadgaon blocks died during the relevant period, and that these deaths occurred due to diseases, and not because of hunger and malnutrition.

(b) As per information furnished by State Government, schools in certain remote areas of the said blocks had not been covered under mid-day meal scheme at the relevant time.